

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 3, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the above Office Action, claims 1-3 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and claims 1-3 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Pereira* (U.S. Patent No. 6,087,551).

More specifically, the Examiner rejected the claims under Section 112 as being indefinite due to the use of both the phrase "consists of" and the word "optionally". Accordingly, as set forth above, the word "optionally" has been removed from independent claim 1. Applicants thus submit that the rejection under Section 112 has been obviated.

As amended above, claim 1 recites that "the impregnation consists of at most two hydrophilic organic solvent components and water and/or an acid." As described in the specification of the present invention, the addition of acid results in good pH control "with the purpose of inhibiting growth of unwanted microorganisms to counteract bad smells or irritation of the skin or mucous membranes in the urogenital region of the user." With regard to the addition of water, an impregnation which includes water "has the advantage of being easy to apply as it exhibits a low viscosity due to the addition of water."

In contrast, the primary reference upon which the Examiner relies, *Pereira*, discloses that wetting agents, such as fatty esters or sorbitol and glycerol and the like, may as an alternative be incorporated into the thermoplastic polymer during manufacture of the fibers (col. 4, lines 19-25). *Pereira* does not disclose or suggest,

however, that the wetting agents may be mixed with water and/or acid. Accordingly, *Pereira* does not disclose an impregnation consisting of hydrophilic organic solvent components and water and/or an acid, as recited in claim 1 and the rejection thereof must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application; the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned counsel for Applicant regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Monday, April 4, 2005

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